THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Law has pointed out serious legal infirmities in the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 because of which Rules for implementation of the Act have not been framed.

(c) Sector-wise details are not available as the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 has not been implemented.

(d) Does not arise, as Rules have not been framed.

"Special Small Savings Scheme"

2244. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a special small savings scheme for the benefit of common people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Various small savings schemes, currently in force, are designed to cater to the needs of different categories of small investors/common people. There is no proposal for introduction of a new small savings scheme under consideration of the Government.

Increase in TA of Government employees

2245. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to increase travelling allowance of Government employees of Group 'C' and 'D' Staff;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The rates of travelling allowance were increased *w.e.f.* 1.10.1997 and no further increase is considered necessary at this stage.

Opening of SBI branch in Jangla, Shimla

†2246. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open the branch of the S.B.I. at Jangla in the district of Shimla so that the retired employees, farmers and business persons could reap benefit thereof;

(b) whether the people of five Panchayats area would be benefited in case the branch of State Bank of India is opened in Jangla;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Growth in Power and Telecom Sector

2247. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an analysis has revealed that power and telecom sectors have not registered growth;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.